

Bel Air Times Building  
38 S. Bond Street  
Bel Air  
Private

Brick commercial buildings were relatively rare in Bel Air in the 19th century. This building with the round-headed window in the front gable so beloved of local builders also has a wide overhang with exposed rafters and a segmental arched door surround, making it unusually stylish. It was built to be the office of the Bel Air Times, a Republican newspaper edited by Nicholas N. Nock, formerly of the Baltimore American.

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Bel Air Times Building

AND/OR COMMON

Potters Mill

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

38 S. Bond Street

1st

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Harford

**3 CLASSIFICATION****CATEGORY**☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT**OWNERSHIP**☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED**STATUS**☐ OCCUPIED☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS**ACCESSIBLE**☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO**PRESENT USE**☐ AGRICULTURE☒ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Charles Spalding et al

Telephone #: 838-7500

STREET &amp; NUMBER

54A N. Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21014

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Harford County Courthouse

Liber #: 402

Folio #: 454-481

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Main Street

CITY, TOWN

Bel Air

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION****CONDITION**☐ EXCELLENT☐ GOOD☒ FAIR☐ DETERIORATED☐ RUINS☐ UNEXPOSED**CHECK ONE**☐ UNALTERED☒ ALTERED**CHECK ONE**☒ ORIGINAL SITE☐ MOVED

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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**DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE**

This long, narrow one and a half story brick building is at 38 Bond in the Town of Bel Air, Harford County, Maryland. The original building, 20' x 40', is brick, laid in common bond. It has a slate gable roof and a deep overhang with projecting rafters. A round-headed six pane casement window is in the front (east) gable. The entrance is in the south bay of the east elevation, recessed with a panelled wooden surround. The round-headed transom is blocked; the door has a single pane over two panels. Two plate glass show windows occupy the west bay. Another door is in the east bay of the north elevation. It has 4 panes over 3 panels. The transom is a single large pane. A stove chimney rises outside the west gable of this section at the north end. The windows in this section are 6/6 double-hung sash.

Two more sections, both of cinder block, complete the building. The one immediately behind the main block is 20' long. It shows a "mansard" roof, but the roof is probably flat. The windows are multi-paned steel frame. The next addition has a flat roof and 2/2 double-hung sash windows with the mutins horizontal.

The front building has been recently painted yellow with brown trim. The next building is painted (not recently) red. The final addition shows bare cement block.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES	1881	BUILDER/ARCHITECT
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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This is one of Bel Air's few brick commercial buildings dating from the 19th century. The front portion was built in 1881 by the Republican Publishing Company of Harford County; incorporators included E. H. Webster, W. H. Dallam, George McComas, W. B. Baker, Richard B. McCoy, and Jesse Hiller. The newspaper they founded was called The Bel Air Times, and as the corporate name suggests, its politics were Republican. They hired Nicholas N. Nock from the Baltimore American to be editor, a position he held until 1900. Nock, a Union army veteran, died in 1911 at the age of 67. While he was in Bel Air he also served 4 terms as postmaster. He left for Philadelphia where he became an editor with Lippincott Publishing Company.

In 1902 the Times Publishing Company bought the newspaper (108/33) and sold it in 1916 to John A. Robinson and Henry Whitaker (153/370). Whitaker sold out to Robinson in 1920 (169/393), and Robinson owned and edited the paper until 1941. Subsequent editors were Vaughan Flannery and Paul Capron, Jr. Flannery changed the name of the paper to the Harford Gazette. In 1951 John D. Worthington, owner of The Aegis bought the paper and it ceased publication.

The building is now vacant, owned by realtor Charles Spalding. A motorcycle accessory shop is going into the building soon.

The original building was 20' x 40'. By 1904 it was 20' x 60'. By 1930 it had reached its present length.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

The Aegis, The Harford Democrat  
 Wright, Our Harford Heritage, p. 397  
 Courthouse Portraits Book, p. 32  
 1904, 1930 Sanborn Maps

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION**

This property occupies parcel # 209 in the Town of Bel Air

**LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Marilynn M. Larew, Architectural Historian

22 September 1979

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Town of Bel Air

838-8700

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

39 Hickory Avenue

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Bel Air

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST 21 STATE CIRCLE SHAW HOUSE ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401  HISTORIC SITES SURVEY FIELD SHEET Individual Structure Survey Form	SURVEY NUMBER: HA-1350
	NEGATIVE FILE NUMBER:
	UTM REFERENCES: Zone/Easting/Northing
	U.S.G.S. QUAD. MAP:
	PRESENT FORMAL NAME: Vacant
COUNTY: Harford TOWN: Bel Air	ORIGINAL FORMAL NAME: Bel Air Times Bldg.
LOCATION: 38 S. Bond Street	PRESENT USE: vacant
COMMON NAME: Potters Mill	ORIGINAL USE: newspaper publishing
FUNCTIONAL TYPE: commercial	ARCHITECT/ENGINEER:
OWNER: Charles Spalding ADDRESS: 54A N. Main Bel Air, Md.	BUILDER/CONTRACTOR:
ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC: Yes( ) No( ) Restricted(x)	PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE:
LEVEL OF SIGNIFICANCE: Local(x) State( ) National( )	Excellent( ) Good( ) Fair(x) Poor( )
GENERAL DESCRIPTION:	THEME: Architecture
Structural System 1. Foundation: Stone(x) Brick( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) 2. Wall Structure A. Wood Frame: Post and Beam( ) Balloon( ) B. Wood Bearing Masonry: Brick( ) Stone( ) Concrete( ) Concrete Block( ) C. Iron( ) D. Steel( ) E. Other: 3. Wall Covering: Clapboard( ) Board and Batten( ) Wood Shingle( ) Shiplap( ) Novelty( ) Stucco( ) Sheet Metal( ) Aluminum( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Brick Veneer(x) Stone Veneer( ) Bonding Pattern: common Other: 4. Roof Structure A. Truss: Wood( ) Iron( ) Steel( ) Concrete( ) B. Other: 5. Roof Covering: Slate(x) Wood Shingle( ) Asphalt Shingle( ) Sheet Metal( ) Built Up( ) Rolled( ) Tile( ) Other: 6. Engineering Structure: 7. Other: Appendages: Porches( ) Towers( ) Cupolas( ) Dormers( ) Chimneys( ) Sheds( ) Ells(x) Wings( ) Other: Roof Style: Gable(x) Hip( ) Shed( ) Flat( ) Mansard( ) Gambrel( ) Jerkinhead( ) Saw Tooth( ) With Monitor( ) With Bellcast( ) With Parapet( ) With False Front( ) Other: Number of Stories: 1½ Number of Bays: 2 Approximate Dimensions: 20' x 210'	STYLE: Vernacular
	DATE BUILT: 1881
THREAT TO STRUCTURE: No Threat( ) Zoning( ) Roads( ) Development( ) Deterioration( ) Alteration( ) Other:	LOCAL ATTITUDES: Positive( ) Negative( ) Mixed( ) Other:

## ADDITIONAL ARCHITECTURAL OR STRUCTURAL DESCRIPTION:

eaves deep overhang      round head 6 pane casement  
 in gable      entrance recessed in panelled surround  
 round headed transom (blocked) door 1 pane over  
 2 panel      2 plate glass show windows  
 windows of main block 6/6  
 flat arch & sill  
 ell many pane steel frame

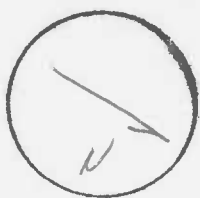
## RELATED STRUCTURES: (Describe)

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

Office of the Bel Air Times 1881

## REFERENCES:

## MAP: (Indicate North in Circle)



## SURROUNDING ENVIRONMENT:

Open Lane( ) Woodland( ) Scattered Buildings( )  
 Moderately Built Up( ) Densely Built Up( )  
 Residential( ) Commercial( )  
 Agricultural( ) Industrial( )  
 Roadside Strip Development( )  
 Other:

Marilynn M. Larew

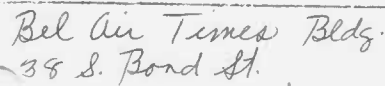
## RECORDED BY:

Town of Bel Air

## ORGANIZATION:

13 September 1979

## DATE RECORDED:



















U.A. 1350 Bellvue Tower Bldg 3rd fl. Cond # 3222  
J. J. J. J.  
M. Lerner, 1979